

DESCRIPTION

Americano Creek and the Estero Americano form a portion of the northwestern border between Sonoma and Marin Counties. The entire Estero and a 6.5 river-mile portion of Americano Creek are within the coastal zone. Almost all of the land in the watershed is under private ownership.

The predominant land use in the watershed is livestock agriculture (grazing and dairy activities), which has seen little change in the past two decades. The water quality in part of the Estero Americano is impaired by nutrients and sediment. Other pollutants of concern resulting from agricultural activities include ammonia, copper, and bacteria.



Mouth of Estero Americano

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For more photos, visit:
www.californiacoastline.org.

REASON FOR CCA IDENTIFICATION

Americano Creek is a 2002 303(d)-listed **impaired waterbody that flows into a Marine Protected Area** (the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary), and was also one of the original CCAs identified in 1995 as an **impaired waterbody that flows into an estuary**.

POLLUTED RUNOFF CONDITIONS

	Top 5 Runoff Pollutants of Concern					Efforts to Address Pollutants (See next page)
	<u>2002 303(d)-Listed Pollutants</u> TMDL Priority (& Proposed Completion if available)	<u>Other Pollutants</u> ¹				
Selected Coastal Zone Waterbodies	<u>Nutrients</u>	<u>Sediment</u>	<u>Ammonia</u>	<u>Copper</u>	<u>Coliform Bacteria</u>	
Estero Americano ▲	▲ Medium	▲ Low	▲	▲	▲	
Americano Creek ■	■ Low		■	■	■	
Ebabilas Creek •						
Unnamed Creeks ♦						
Potential Sources of Pollutants in Coastal Waterbodies						
Agriculture			▲ ■	▲ ■	▲ ■	a-c, e, f
➤ Pasture Grazing	▲ ■		▲ ■	▲ ■	▲ ■	
➤ Range Grazing--Riparian	■	▲				
➤ Range Grazing--Upland	■					
➤ Intensive Animal Feeding Operations	■					
➤ Manure Lagoons	▲ ■					c
➤ Dairies	■		▲ ■	▲ ■	▲ ■	
Urban Areas						e
Hydromodification		▲				e, g
➤ Streambank Modification		▲				f, h

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Potential Sources of Pollutants, continued	Nutrients	Sediment	Ammonia	Copper	Coliform	Efforts to Address Pollutants
Wetlands & Riparian Areas						d, e
➤ Removal of Riparian Vegetation		▲				
Erosion/Siltation		▲				a, f, h
Unspecified Nonpoint Source		▲				

¹ Information on ammonia, copper, and coliform bacteria as pollutants of concern is from Tom Moore, Calif. Dept. of Fish & Game.

MAJOR EFFORTS TO IMPLEMENT NPS MANAGEMENT MEASURES

a)	Erosion Control Program			http://www.sonomamarinrcds.org/district-gr/info.html#contact
	Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District (RCD)	Patricia Hickey	(707) 823-4662	goldrcd@sonic.net
	➤ Projects addressing polluted runoff from ag. lands in the Estero Americano & Americano Creeks, developing a Watershed Management Plan for the Estero Americano, and funding for landowners for erosion control projects.			
b)	Program for Reduction of Nitrogenous and Carboniferous Wastes			http://www.sonomamarinrcds.org/
	Gold Ridge, Marin Co., & S. Sonoma Co. Resource Conservation Districts	Steve Chatham & Lisa Shanks	(415) 874-0100 (707) 794-1242	sscrd@ca.nacdn.net goldrdge@sonic.net
	➤ Assist landowners in addressing environmental concerns by maintaining a presence in natural resources conservation work in all watersheds within the District, and provide conduit for state and federal monies.			
c)	Manure Control Program (includes Animal Waste Control Plan)			http://www.sonomamarinrcds.org/
	Gold Ridge, Marin Co., & S. Sonoma Resource Conservation Districts	Leandra Swent	(707) 794-1242	sscrd@ca.nacdn.net
	➤ Provides local leadership and delivers conservation measures to local residents and landowners.			
d)	Riparian Habitat Enhancement			http://www.sonomamarinrcds.org/district-gr/info.html#contact
	Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District (RCD)	Patricia Hickey	(707) 823-4662	goldrcd@sonic.net
	➤ Assist landowners with watershed improvement.			
e)	Tomales Bay Watershed Council			http://www.tomalesbaywatershed.org/
		Neysa King	(415) 663-9092	tbwc@horizoncable.com
	➤ Purpose is to create and help facilitate a management plan to preserve and protect our water and land resources for sustainable uses by agriculture, aquaculture, business, environmental, recreation, and residential interests.			
f)	Coastal Streams Restoration, Bodega Bay Watershed			http://www.sonomamarinrcds.org/district-gr/info.html#contact
	Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District (RCD)	Bernadette Reed, Regional Water Quality Control Board contract manager	(707) 576-2678 (707) 824-4662	breed@waterboards.ca.gov goldrcd@sonic.net
	➤ Assist agriculture landowners in the Bodega Bay Watershed to implement projects (riparian fencing, stream bank and gully stabilization, and revegetation) to reduce sediment, nutrient and pathogen pollution.			

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g)	Water Quality Monitoring	http://www.sonomamarinrcds.org/district-gr/info.html#contact		
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service		Charlette Epifanio	(707) 794-1242	
➤ NRCS is funding UC Cooperative Extension to do water monitoring to evaluate the effectiveness of conservation practices, and provides funding to landowners for conservation work through their Farm Bill programs- PL 566.				
h)	Stemple Creek Watershed Efforts	http://www.sonomamarinrcds.org/district-gr/info.html#contact		
Southern Sonoma County Resource Conservation District		Leandra Swent	(707) 794-1242	sscrd@ca.nacdn.net
➤ Aimed at reducing sedimentation, nutrients, and water temperatures, by fencing out creeks/gullies, native plantings, streambank repair work, and making dairy facility improvements. Through PL 566 -Watershed program.				

REGULATORY/PLANNING JURISDICTIONS

➤ Sonoma County, Permit and Resource Management	http://www.sonoma-county.org/prmd/index.htm	Greg Carr	(707) 565-1944	gcarr@sonoma-county.org
➤ Marin County Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program	http://mcstoppp.org/	Liz Lewis	(415) 499-7226	lizlewis@co.marin.ca.us
➤ Marin County, Community Development Dept.	http://www.co.marin.ca.us/depts/CD/main/index.cfm	Thomas Lai	(415) 499-6292	tlai@co.marin.ca.us
➤ NOAA, Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary	http://farallones.noaa.gov/bv	Maria Brown	(415) 561-6622	maria.brown@noaa.gov
➤ Calif. Coastal Commission, Water Quality Unit	http://www.coastal.ca.gov/nps/npsndx.html	Vanessa Metz	(707) 445-7873	vmetz@coastal.ca.gov
➤ North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, NPS Complaint Response	http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/	Diana Henriouille-Henry	(707) 576-2350	dhenriouille-henry@waterboards.ca.gov
➤ State Water Resources Control Board	http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/	Heidi Hall	(916) 323-2871	hhall@waterboards.ca.gov
➤ California Coastal Conservancy	http://www.coastalconservancy.ca.gov/	Karyn Gear	(510) 286-4171	kgear@scc.ca.gov
➤ Calif. Dept. of Fish & Game, Marine Region	http://www.dfg.ca.gov/	Vicki Frey	(707) 445-7830	vfrey@dfg.ca.gov
➤ Caltrans, Stormwater Management	http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/env/stormwater/	Alex Arevalo	(707) 445-6600	Alex_Arevalo@dot.ca.gov